

The Lamentations  
of Ieremie in  
*Meeter.*

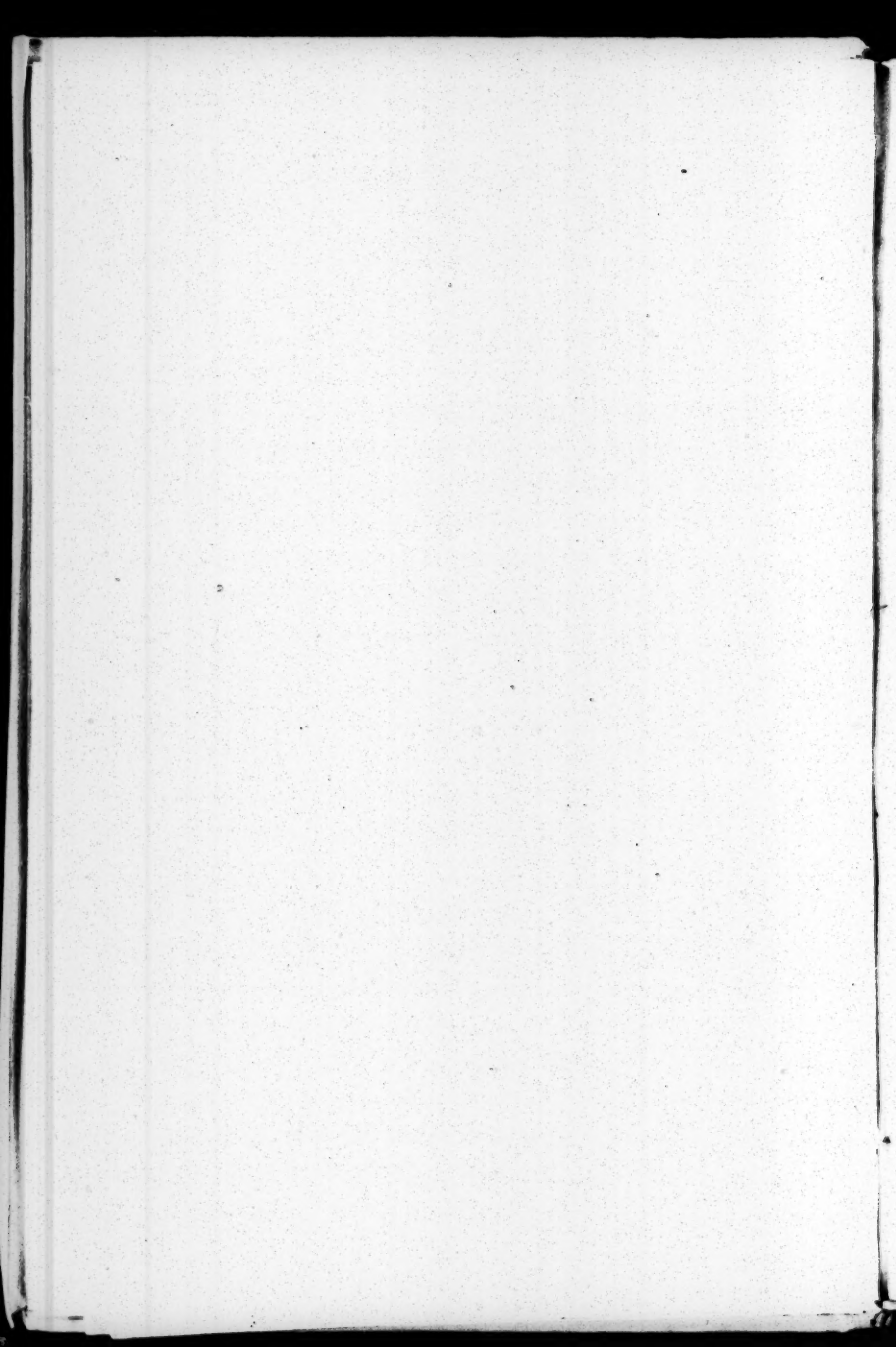
With apt notes to sing  
*them Withall.*



LONDON

Imprinted by Iohn Wolfe, dwelling  
in Distaffe lane neere the  
signe of the Castle,

1587.





# The Lamentations of Ieremy.

## The first Chapter.

*1 The Prophet bewaileth the miserable  
estate of Ierusalem, 5 And sheweth  
that they are plagued because of their  
sinnes.*



remaine, alone in widowes case, that



heretofore with people was, repleat

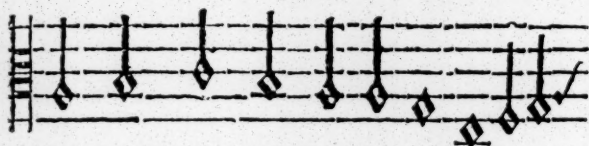
in



in euery place? She that in glory did



excell, and other countries shade: And



Princesse vvas of Prouinces, is tribu-



tary made.

- 2 She doth lament continuallie,  
 with teares from dewed eyes :  
 And all her friends her present state,  
 do grieuouſlie deſpiſe.

Amongſt



Amongst her louers she hath none  
to comfort her at all :

For they her foes are now become,  
and dailie from her fall.

3 Lo Iuda in captiuitie  
is caried away :

Because of her oppression,  
and crueltie, I say.

She dwelles among the heathen folke,  
where she can find no rest :

And in the straits by enemies  
was grieuouſlie oppreſt.

4 The waies of Sion do lament,  
with grieve her wretched ſtate :

That no man commeth to the feaſts,  
her gates are deſolate.

Her virgins are diſcomfited,  
her prieſts do ſigh and mone :

And ſhe is left in deepe diſtreſſe,  
and heauineſſe alone.

5 Her aduerſaries beare the ſway,  
and proſper more and more :

For

For that the Lord her doings hath  
afflicted verie sore.

Because of her transgressions,  
and cruell tyrannie,

Her children are in bondage gone,  
before the enemye.

6 From daughter decre of Sion eke,  
all beautie doth decaie :

Her princes are become as men  
with sorrow pin'd awaie.

And euen as Harts that pasture want,  
do trot from place to place :

So are they gone before their foes,  
who do puriue the chace.

7 Hierusalem in miserie,  
and manie sorrowes tost :

Began to call to memorie,  
the things that she had lost.

When as her people by their foes  
were slaine both farre and wide :

Whom when her enemies do behold,  
her ceasings they deride.

8 In that they haue discerned well,  
her sinne and wickednesse,  
Yea she with sighing turneth backe  
and mourneth in distresse.  
Because of her offences she  
to mockerie is brought,  
And all that honoured her before,  
do set her novv at nought.

9 Her filthinesse is in her skirts,  
her end she did forget:  
And therefore was she wondrouslic  
intrapped in the net.  
She had no comforter at all,  
my sorrowes Lord behold:  
For th'aduersarie in his pride,  
my doings hath controld.

10 The enimie with violence  
hath stretched out his hand:  
Vpon her chiefest treasures,  
and pleasures of the land.  
And she hath seene the heathen go  
into her holie place.  
Who thou cōmandest should not come  
therein in anie case.

11 Her people sigh & seeke their bread,  
and willinglie do giue,  
Their pleasant things for sustenance,  
their hunger to relieue.

Looke downe O Lord vpon my state,  
my miserie consider :  
For I am vile, therefore with speed,  
my fillie soule deliuer.

12 All ye that trauell by this waie  
behold my present paine :  
What sorrow may compared be  
with this which I sustaine ?  
Which for my disobedience  
the Lord hath brought to passe :  
Euen in the day when as his wrath  
and furie kindled was.

13 Into my bones is fier falne,  
sent from his heauenlie throne :  
The which preuailing is the cause  
of this my grieuous mone.  
He spred a net to trap my feete,  
and giuing me the foile :  
He made me dailie destitute,  
in heauinesse to toile.

14 The yoke of my transgressions,  
is planted with his hand, (strength  
Whose multitude dooth make my  
vnable for to stand.  
So that the same doth fade awaie,  
and I in wofull wise:  
Vnto my foes am yelded vp,  
not able for to rise.

15 In midst of me the Lord hath cast  
my valiant men to ground:  
Assembling manie multitudes,  
my young men to confound.  
As they that do the winepresse tread,  
so do his steps appeare:  
Vpon the virgin to extend  
euen Iudaes daughter deare.

16 For these things do I mourne with  
that do mine eies destroy: (teares  
Because the comforter that should  
my soule refresh with ioy  
Is farre awaie, my children eke  
in desolation waile,  
Because the enemies assault  
against them do preuaile.

17 In vaine for comfort Sion hath  
her hands erected out :

The Lord hath caused Iacobs foes  
to compasse him about.

Amidst them all Hierusalem  
polluted is vvith sinne :

And like a stained cloth defild,  
her cottages vvithin.

18 The Lord is iust vvwhose precepts  
I haue reiected quite : (true

Wherefore ye people all behold,  
the sorrovv I recite.

My virgins pure and yongmen eke,  
vvhich did my state adorne :

In bondage and captiuitie,  
are grieuousslie forlorne.

19 I called for my louers then,  
but they did shrinke avvay :

And in the citie both my priests,  
and elders did decay.

And vvhilest they sought for sustenance  
their soules to satisfie :

For vvant therof through hunger smart  
they died dolefullie.



20 Behold O Lord my troubles great,  
and marke my sorrovves vvell:  
Mine heart vvithin me turned is  
my bowvels also svvell.  
For I am full of heauinesse,  
in miserie I toile:  
And euen as death doth kill at home,  
so svvord abrode doth spoile.

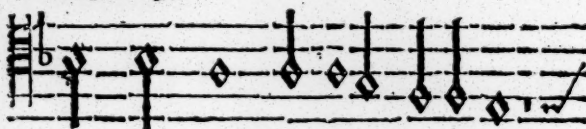
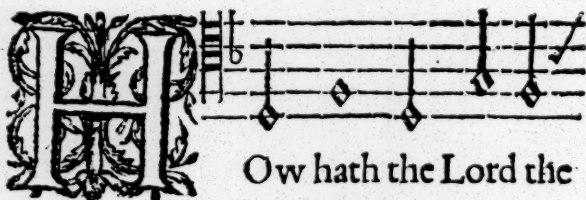
21 My mourning is declar'd abroade  
yet comfort none I find:  
Mine enemies that heare thereof  
full ioifull are in mind.  
In that thou hast afflicted me,  
yet vvilt thou bring to passe,  
The daie that thou hast promised,  
to vvast them as the grasse.

22 Let all their vvickednesse be made  
apparant vnto thee:  
And scourge them vvith the punishmēts  
that thou hast shevved mee.  
Whose heauie plagues for my misdeeds  
on me extended are:  
Therefore I sigh, my heart also  
oppressed is vvith care.



## The second Chapter.

*The Prophet lamenteth the ouerthrowe of the people, of the kingdome, the worship of God, and of the whole region: and therefore setting downe his commiseration or pitying thereof, he amplifieth the grienousnesse of their miseries, and also the unworthinesse thereof: and at length he instructeth the Iewes howe they shall craue mercie of God.*



daughters light, of Sion put away?

Euen



Euen in the fury of his wrath, and



brought vnto decay. The beauty faire



of Israell, with great and grievous



fall : And in his ire his footestool



hee, remembreth not at all.

2 All Jacobs habitations  
the Lord destroyed hath :

E 4

And

And casteth off the daughter deere,  
of Iuda in his wrath.

He hath throwne down vnto the ground  
the kingdoms fraught with sin.

And therewithall the princes great  
that gouerned therein.

3 The horne of Israell also,  
that did in glorie stand:

He hath cut downe and giuen them  
into the enemies hand.

In Iacob like a flame of fire,  
then kindling did arise:

The which deuouring round about,  
sent smoke vnto the skies.

4 He stretched out his own right hand,  
euen as anemie:

On euerie goodlie thing that was  
delightfull to the eie.

Within the habitation,  
of Sions daughter deare,

The heate and rigour of his wrath  
like fier did appeare.

5 The Lord with anger then beset,  
destroied Ifraell :

Consuming all his pallaces,  
which greatlie did excell.  
His walled forts he did destroie,  
and furthermore procure  
Euen Iudaes daughter in distresse,  
and mourning to endure.

6 His tabernacle he hath spoild,  
like to a garden gate :  
His congregation also  
he hath consumed awaie.  
The feasts and Sabboth he hath made  
in Sion now forgot :  
And in his furie he the king  
and Priest remitted not.

7 His altar and his holie place,  
the Lord hath quite forsaken :  
And by their foe hath caus'd their wals  
in peeces to be shaken.  
Who makes a noise therein as though  
the feasts obserued were :  
But with exceeding blasphemie :  
as plainlie doth appere.

- 8 The Lord pretended to destroye,  
by stretching out a line  
The wals of Sion, and from spoile  
his hands do not decline.  
The verie stones and rampire he  
hath caused to lament :  
So grievous are his punishments,  
which he to them hath sent.
- 9 Her gates are sunke vnto the ground,  
her barres in sunder broke :  
Her king and princes subiect are  
vnto the Gentiles stroke.  
The law from them departed is,  
the Prophets liue in feare :  
For that no vision from the Lord,  
vnto them doth appeare.
- 10 Her elders sit vpon the ground,  
from words they do abstaine :  
And throwing dust vpon their heads,  
their miseries complaine.  
With sack cloth they do gird theselues,  
in signe of sorrow deepe :  
The virgins of Hierusalem,  
hang downe their heads and weepe.
- 11 Mine

11 Mine eies with gush ing teares doe  
 my bowels troubled bee: [faile,  
 My liuer is vpon the earth,  
 effused, for to see  
 My people thus to be destroyed:  
 for in the cities lie  
 The babes and sucklings in a swoone,  
 and readie for to die.

12 Vnto their mothers wofullie,  
 for want of food they said:  
 Our hungrie bodies to relieue,  
 now giue vs drinke and bread.  
 Whenas they swooned in the streets,  
 and in the cities coast:  
 Euen in their mothers bosome, where  
 they yeelded vp the ghost.

13 What witnesse need I take for thee,  
 whereto shall I compare  
 Hierusalem or Sions state,  
 to ease thee of thy care?  
 Thy sorrow great and grievous is,  
 like that which those assaie:  
 Which faile on seas, thy wo who cures  
 the cause of thy decaie?

Thy



14 Thy Prophets vain & foolish things  
haue looked out for thee :

Not once discovering thy sinne,  
and vile iniquitie.

To turne away thy banishment,  
and force of future shame :

But haue false prophecies declar'd,  
the causes of the same.

15 The passengers do clap their hands,  
and hisse at thy decaie :

They wag their heads to see thy state,  
and thus of thee they say :

Is this the citie nois'd abroad  
in beautie to excell ?

The ioy of all the earth, as men  
euen of a truth do tell.

16 Thine enemies with open mouth,  
assemble all about :

They gnash their teeth, and therewithall  
these words they thunder out.

Our long expected day we haue  
now seene and also found:

Wherefore let vs destroie them all,  
and bear them to the ground.



17 The Lord his word & purpose hath  
decreed now to do:  
which hee by iustice in his ire  
intended long ago.  
He hath not spared to destroie  
and made the enemye  
Triumphantlie for to reioise,  
exalting him on hie.

18 Their heart did crie against the Lord  
O wall of Sion gaie:  
Let teares run downe like water brooks  
from thee both night and daie.  
Let not thy senses dulled be  
through sleepe and heauinesse,  
But call to God vncessantlie,  
thy sorrowes to redresse.

19 Crie in the night and watches eke,  
powre out thine heart also:  
Before the Lord like gushing streames  
that from the waters flo.  
Lift vp thine hands to him alwaie,  
thy children to maintaine:  
That faint for hunger in the streates,  
and plunged are in paine.

20 Consider

- 20 Consider Lord on whom thou dost  
thy wrath and vengeance powre :  
Oh shall the women forced be  
their children to deuowre ?  
Or shall the Priest and Prophet both,  
in wofull wise be slaine :  
That none within thy holie place,  
hereafter shall remaine ?
- 21 The yong and old vpon the ground  
within the streets do lie :  
My virgins and my yong men are,  
by sword compeld to die.  
Which in thy snrious daie of vvrath,  
and indignation,  
Thou hast destroied and beaten downe,  
not sparing anie one.
- 22 My foes about me thou hast cald,  
as in a solemne daie :  
Which furiously with murder great,  
my safetie do betraie.  
For those whom I haue nourished,  
and carefullie brought vp :  
Mine enemy enforced hath,  
to tast of deadlie cup.

The third Chapter.

*The Church of the Iewes reasoneth concerning the most grieuous miseries sent of God, and declaring her spirituall combats, she setteth downe that with a sure faith in God by the things which were present, the examples going before, the nature and promises of God, she liueth in hope of saluation: and last of all confessing her sinnes, and amplifying the punishmēts present, she beseecheth God for her owne deliuerance, & for the destruction of the aduersaries.*



Am the man that haue



sustained, and felt affliction: Euen in  
the



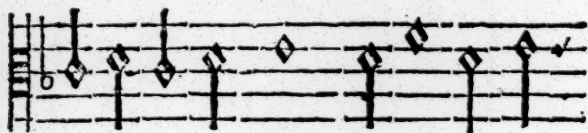
the rod and fury of, his indignation.



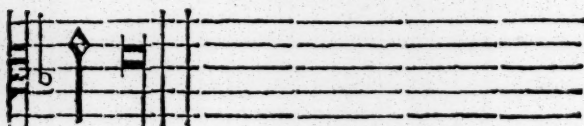
2 In darke some denne he hath me led,



wheras no light I see: 3 And all the



day his heavy hand, full sore oppres-



seth me.

4 My flesh and skinne are withered,  
my bones also are broke:

5 And

- 5 And he against me builded hath,  
to toile with grieuous yoke.
- 6 In places darke he hath me set,  
as they that die for aie :
- 7 His hedges also hold me in,  
my chaines full heauie waie.
  
- 8 And when I praie and call to him,  
he shutteth out my cry :
- 9 He stops my waies with hewen stone  
that I cannot passe by .
- 10 He was to me euen as a beare,  
that waiteth for the praie :  
And as a Lion that doth lurke,  
in secret by the waie.
  
- 11 He stops my waies, also my flesh,  
in peeces he hath torne :  
And made me dailie desolate,  
and grieuouſlie forlorne.
- 12 He bent his bow and caused me,  
his arrow marke to bee :
- 13 And made his arrowes pearce my  
with great extremitie. (reines

- 14 Euen as a ieasting stocke I was,  
derided of my foes:
- 15 My senses he with bitternesse,  
hath caused me to lose.
- 16 With stones he broken hath my  
with ashes couering me: (teeth;
- 17 My soule far off from peace did then  
forget prosperitie.
- 18 And said my strength and hope also  
is perished from God:
- 19 Remembring mine affliction,  
by this his bitter rod.
- 20 My soule recording then doth in  
humilitie remaine:
- 21 And waiting perfectlie thereof,  
I steadfast hope retaine.
- 22 It is a manuell that we are,  
not vtterlie destroide:  
But that Gods mercies do excell,  
and are not alwaies voide.
- 23 Each morning they renued are,  
great is his faithfulnessse:
- 24 And he my portion doth remaine,  
to ease mine heauinesse.



25 The Lord is good to them that trust  
vnto his Maiestie.

'And to the soule that seeketh him,'  
he proffereth courtesie.

26 It is both good to trust and wait,  
for Gods saluation :

27 And in thy youth to beare the yoke  
of his affliction.

28 For whosoever in effect,  
afflictions do sustaine :

He sits alone full quietlie,  
and silence doth retaine.

29 With humble mind he doth submit  
himselſe in his distresse :

As he that falleth on the ground,  
and hopeth for redresse.

30 He yeeldes his checke to him that  
and is with sorrows toſt: (ſmites,

31 Yet doth not God forſake him quite,  
for euer to be loſt.

32 For though he ſend affliction,  
vpon his children deere :

Yet will he haue compaſſion,  
euen of his mercie meere.



33 He taketh no delight at all,  
his punishments to send :

But doth it of necessitie,  
our liues for to amend.

34 In suffering the wicked man,  
the simple to oppresse :

35 To ouerthrow his proper right,  
before Gods holinesse.

36 Subuerting each man in his cause,  
by his vniust pretence :

37 So that there's nothing happeneth,  
without Gods prouidence.

38 Doth not both good and euill come,  
by his permission :

39 Why mourneth man who for his  
doth beare affliction. (sinne,

40 Let vs both search and trie our waies  
and turne vnto the Lord :

41 And lift our hearts & hands on high  
to him with one accord.

42 Against thee Lord we sinned haue,  
therefore thou hast not spared :

43 But caused vs with grievous paine,  
in slaughter to be snared.

44 And

44 And with a cloud thy selfe thou hast  
bewrapped thoroughlie:

That our petitions should not come,  
before thy maiestie.

45 Euen as the refuse of the world,  
detested euerie where:

So vnto all men thou dost make  
our honour to appeare.

46 Our foes do raile vpon vs sore,  
and we intrapped are:

47 With feare and desolation,  
and in a deadlie snare.

48 Mine eie for sorrowe great whole  
of water casteth out: (streames

To see my people wrongfullie,  
destroied round about.

49 Mine eie vncessant drops doth yeeld  
which issue out apace:

50 Till that the Lord from heauen see,  
into my wretched case.

51 Mine eie to see my people slaine  
doth cause mine heart to rew:

52 And as a bird without a cause,  
my foes did me pursue.

53 They shut me vp in mirie den,  
and cast on me a stone :

54 The waters couered me, and I  
did thinke I had beene gone,

55 Out of the dungeon deepe, O Lord,  
I called on thy name :

56 Thou heardst my voice, wherefore  
the meaning of the same. (regard

57 And in the daie wherein I calde,  
to me thou drewest neare :

To comfort me in my distresse,  
and bad me not to feare.

58 O Lord thou hast redeemed my life,  
my cause thou dost maintaine :

59 Iudge then my right, for thou hast  
the wrong that I sustaine. (seene

60 Thou hast their vengeance seene O  
their thoughts also espide: (Lord,

61 And thou hast heard their vile re-  
and their deuises tride. (proch,

62 The lips also of those that did  
against me dailie rise:

And wisperings of wicked men,  
that did my death deuise.

- 63 In sitting downe and rising vp,  
their dailie songs am I:  
64 Giue them therefore a recompence,  
O Lord accordinglie.  
65 Giue them an heart with sorrow  
thy curse vpon them send: (fild,  
66 Destroy them frō the earth, O Lord  
and plague them in the end.



## The fourth Chapter.

*The Prophet bewailing the miseries of the Church and people in many words, declareth that the cause thereof is placed in the iudgement of God, who was incensed agaynst the Iewes for their sinnes past, and their present vanitie and hardnes of hart: and at length he foretellet that destruction shall come vpon the aduersaries, and deliuerance shall appeare to the godly in due time.*



Ow is the gold become



so darke, that sometime brauely

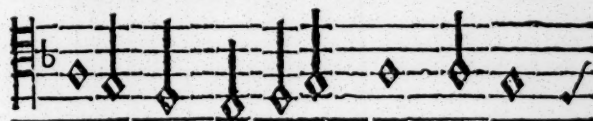
shone



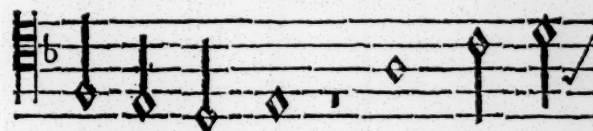
shone : The holy stones are scattered



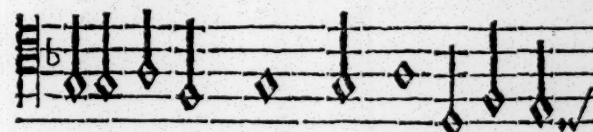
about the streates alone? 2 The



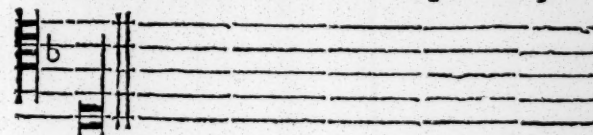
noble men of Syon fayre, to gold



that likened were: Like earth of



estimation small, full simple do ap-



peare.

3 The



- 3 The dragons fell, to feed their yong,  
great trauaile vndertake:  
But Iuda like an Ostrich, doth  
her children yong forsake.
- 4 The sucklings tongues vnto their  
for thirst full close do sit: (mouthes,  
They craue reliefe, but no man doth,  
to them distribute it.
- 5 They that with dilicates were fed,  
do perish now apace:  
And those that were in skarlet wrapt,  
the dunghils do embrace.
- 6 Because their sinnes far greater then,  
the Sodomites did show:  
That was destroid suddenlie,  
without the force of fo.
- 7 Her Nazarites as pure as snow,  
and liuely coloured:  
Euen as the ruddie precious stones,  
or Saphyre pullished.
- 8 Are now as blacke as anie cole,  
that they cannot be knowne:  
Their skin adioining to their bones,  
like withered stocke is growne.



- 9 They that do perish by the sword,  
are at a better staie :  
Then they that are for want of food,  
compeld to pine awaie.
- 10 The women that were pitifull,  
haue sod their children deare :  
Which in this spoile and cruell dearth,  
their onelie succour were.
- 11 The Lord fulfilled hath his wrath,  
and powred out his ire :  
The rootes of Sion he destroied,  
by hote consuming fire.
- 12 No king on earth would haue be-  
that anie forreine fo : (leu'd,  
By force of armes durst secme to come,  
Hierusalem into.
- 13 For sinne of Priests & Prophets both  
that in the midst of her :  
Haue shed the guiltlesse blood of such,  
as good and godlie were.
- 14 As blind men they haue wandered,  
with blood defilde all ouer :  
So that they vvould not touch their  
their bodies for to couer. (clothes  
15 But

15 But euerie one to them did crie,  
with fierce and cruell mood :  
Depart, depart, and touch vs not,  
ye impes pollute with blood.  
Wherefore they fled, the heathen then  
did saie with enuie fore :  
They now are gone, they doubtles shall  
inhabit there no more.

16 The wrath of God hath scattered  
he will them not respect: (them,  
The Priests and elders they without,  
compassion reiect.

17 We looke for helpe but all in vaine,  
our eies thereby did faile.  
We waited for a nation  
that nothing would auaile.

18 They hunt our steps that in the street  
we dare not once appeare :  
Our daies with grieve fulfilled are,  
our end approcheth neare.

19 Our foes in swiftnesse do exceed,  
the eagles of the skie :  
They chase vs in the wildernesse,  
and on the mountaines hie.

20 Our king Iosia in the net,  
intrapped was and slaine:  
By whom we thought from feare of  
in safetie to remaine. (foes,

21 Reioise O Edom thou that in,  
the land of Vz dost dwell:  
For vnto thee the cup shall come,  
thy people to expell.

22 Thy punishment O Sion is,  
accomplished in thee:  
He will no more lead thee awaie,  
into captiuitie.  
But Edom thine iniquitie,  
he visit will all ouer:  
And therewithall thy wickednesse  
and sinfull life discouer.

## The fift Chapter.

*The Church of the Iewes reasoning with  
God touching her miseries, confesseth  
her sinnes : she mourneth for them, for  
her punishments, for the ouerthrow of  
the whole Church : Furthermore, shee  
prayeth God to turne away his anger,  
and craueth mercie.*



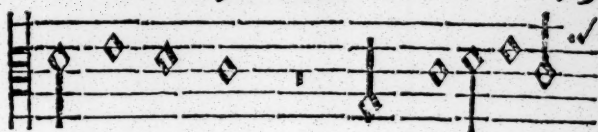
Emember Lord our



present state, wherin we do remaine :



Consider our reproach also, and shame  
that



that we sustaine. 2 Our heritage by



straungers is with-holden from our



handes : The aliants also kepe away our



houses and our lands.

3 And of our fathers are we now  
iniuriouse bereft :

Our mothers also comfortlesse,  
as wofull widowes left.

4 Our

4 Our waters we for coine haue drunk  
our wood also we buie :

5 And we are in subiection,  
and restlesse miserie.

6 To Ashur and th'Egyptians,  
we reach our hands for bread :

That they maie fill vs with the same,  
whereof we stand in need.

7 Our fathers sinned, and their daies  
in sorrow we haue worne :

And we their children after them  
their wickednesse haue borne.

8 We are in bondage vnto those,  
that sometime seruants were :

And for our safe deliuerance  
no succour doth appeare.

9 We gat our bread in perill of  
the enemy alwaie :

Who from the wilderness did come,  
pretending vs to flate.

10 Our skin was blacke as anie ouen,  
and dride for want of meat :

Because



Because the famine of the land,  
 vvas sharpe and verie great.

11 In Sion they the vvomen spoild,  
 through their affection vile:  
 And in the cities of Iuda,  
 the virgins did defile.

12 The princes they vvere hanged vp,  
 euen by the enemies hand:

The faces of the Elders novv  
 in honour do not stand.

13 They tooke the yong mē for to grind:  
 the children also vvere

Opprest vvith burthens vvwhich they  
 not able for to beare. (vvere

14 The Elders from the gates, also  
 the youths from singing cease:

15 Our ioy of heart is quite decaide,  
 our sorrovv doth increase.

16 Our crovvvn is fallen from our head,  
 the cities gate vvithin:

Vvovv therefore vnto our state,  
 that euer vve did sin.

17 Our heart in heavinesse doth pant,  
these vvofull things to see :  
Our cies through griefe & sorovv great  
vvith vveeping dimmed bee.  
18 Because the mountaine of Sion,  
so desolate doth stand :  
The foxes running therevpon,  
as in a barren land.

19 But thou O God for euer dost,  
remaine both iust and pure :  
Thy throne also from age to age,  
for euer shall endure.  
20 Shall we for euer be forgot ?  
wilt thou no mercie take ?  
Or why dost thou O Lord so long,  
thy children deare forsake ?

21 Turne thou to vs, O Lord, and we  
to thee shall turned bee :  
Renue our daies as heretofore  
that we maie worship thee.  
22 But thou hast now thy litle flocke,  
reiected vtterlie :  
As I thou with vs art angrie now,  
and wroth exceedinglie.

*FINIS.*



LONDON

Imprinted by Iohn  
Wolfe, dwelling in Distaffe  
*lane neere the signe*  
of the Castle.

1587.